

November 17, 1948

COPY NO. 24

DRAFT REPORT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
on

OVERT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

(Proposed by the Air Force Consultant as a substitute for "Plans and Preparations for Wartime Information Programs and Related Activities", November 23, 1948.)

THE PROBLEM

1. To determine the responsibilities and functions of a suitable organization within the Government for the peacetime planning pertaining to psychological warfare functions, which will serve as a nucleus for expansion in time of war or threat of war as determined by the President.

ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM

2. Responsibility within this Government for the peacetime planning and preparation of psychological warfare operations to be carried on in the event of war has been partially but not completely defined.

3. NSC 10/2 made provision for the covert phase of psychological warfare in peace and in war.

4. NSC 4 assigned the responsibility for the coordination of foreign information measures to the Secretary of State.

5. The SANACC Subcommittee on Special Studies and Evaluations is charged with planning for the wartime phases of psychological warfare in the overt field. The charter of this Subcommittee is as follows (SWNCC 304/1):

NSC, OSD & DOS review(s) completed.

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"The Subcommittee is charged with preparation of policies, plans and studies for immediate and continuous employment of national psychological warfare in time of war or threat of war as determined by the President. The Subcommittee shall have authority in the absence of a national wartime organization for psychological warfare for coordination and implementation of approved psychological warfare plans in any war emergency which might suddenly arise."

This charter was later amended to restrict the activities of the Committee to the overt phases only of psychological warfare.

6. The SANACC in 304/14 concurred with the recommendations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that "there should be established as soon as practicable under the National Security Council a Psychological Warfare Organization but with its peacetime scope limited to that of a working nucleus for planning and coordination only." The Joint Chiefs of Staff considered it dangerous to national security to delay the establishment of such an organization until war or threat of war, and vital that such a nucleus be established immediately under the National Security Council.

7. The SANACC forwarded these recommendations to the National Security Council for their consideration and appropriate action, together with SWNCC 304/6, a study of the problem, a recommendation that a National Organization be established, and a charter for a director thereof, and SANACC 304/12, an outline plan of a proposed organization.

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CONCLUSIONS

8. It is concluded that the SANACC series of papers 304/6, /12, and /14 prescribe the most efficacious method to solve the problem of overt psychological warfare, both foreign and domestic, in peace and in war.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. It is recommended that the NSC approve the provisions of SWNCC 304/6 and SANACC 304/12 and 304/14 as they pertain to overt psychological warfare and recommend to the President that he direct that the action outlined in those papers be implemented immediately.

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